The Immigration of Lepidoptera to the British Isles in 1979

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The year 1979 was generally poor for immigrants. Most of the common species were more numerous than in 1978, although none except *Pieris brassicae* L. were unusually abundant; but the scarcer ones were fewer both in species and numbers, and no spectacular invasions took place. There were, however, some notable single records: of *Notodonta torva* Hübner at Eastbourne, East Sussex, after the night of May 29/30, by M. Hadley (*Ent. Rec.* **91**: 145); of *Syngrapha circumflexa* at Sway, South Hampshire, on July 29th by Rear Admiral A. D. Torlesse (*Ent. Rec.* **92**: 28), and of *Hyles euphorbiae* L. at Brentwood, South Essex, on the same night, by P. J. Wansell; and, among the butterflies of *Danaus plexippus* L. sighted and photographed in a garden at Yaverland, Isle of Wight on July 7th by J. Churcher. There were also four captures of *Chrysodeixis chalcites* Esp: between October 2nd and 10th (*Ent. Rec.* **91**: 269), the Ministry of Agriculture have informed us that no imported larvae of this species were intercepted in 1979. But only 20 of the scarcer certainly immigrant species were noted in 1979, as compared with 27 in 1978 and over 40 in the exceptional season of 1976. One species, *Clostera anachoreta* D. & S. which reported singly as in immigrant in 1978, appears to have gained at least a temporary foothold in East Kent in 1979 (*Ent. Rec.* **91**: 209).

Records have come directly or indirectly from some 75 recorders. Most per force had to concentrate on the commoner species; but their information about dates and unusual numbers is valuable both for understanding these species and for its bearing on the occurrence of others. Thus, the single records of *N. torva*, *S. circumflexa* and *H. euphorbiae*, already referred to, might well have been supposed to represent accidental introductions or escapes; but the former has strong local support from early records of *Autographa gamma* L. and *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. on the same and adjacent nights; and for the second and third the coincidence of date combined with the influx of 200 *A. gamma* and a few *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. in East Sussex and of a *Mythimna vitellina* Hübner in West Sussex, on July 27/28, gives a high probability that both these rarities were natural immigrants. There is some reason to believe that they may have originated in the Canary Islands.

The winds of this cold, wet season may have been as deterrent to immigrants as to residents. There are traces of a small immigration in April of *Vanessa atalanta* L. (*Ent. Rec.* **91**: 157) and *A. ipsilon* in Cornwall and Devon, and

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early records of *Phlogophora meticulosa* there may have been of immigrants. Later, until late July, unfavorable north westerly air streams predominated; these were, indeed, frequently broken for a day or two, but hardly for long enough to allow long distance migrants to reach the British Isles. There were longer spells of south west or south winds over South England only from May 13th to 17th, May 29th to June 5th, July 3rd to 8th, and from July 26th into early August. Through August and September, though there was more southerly and westerly wind, conditions remained very unsettled, and only in the first half of October were these winds prolonged, with a further short spell at the end of the month and into early November. As in 1978, October was clearly the best month; but even then the immigrations were less clear cut, smaller, and less varied in content and probably in origin. The only trace during the season of movement from the east across the North Sea, was provided by records of three *Eurois occulta* L. in east Lincolnshire, accompanied by 150 *A. gamma* and some *Agrius convolvuli* L., and by two *Nymphalis antiopa* L., one at Peterborough, between 27th August and September 1st, and one at Shoreham, Kent, on 26th July.

It is clear that, with certain exceptions, most of the scarce migrants and the large influxes of the commoner ones came during these periods of favourable wind; exact correspondence is not to be expected, because immigrants may be recorded some days after their actual arrival. The associations of species reported in several of these periods is shown below: —

May 29th/June 5th	*N. noctuella; V. atalanta; O. obstipata; N. torva* (1); *A. ipsilon, A. gamma, M. stellatarum* (1)
July 3rd/8th	*C. cardui, D. plexippus, M. stellatarum, A. gamma*
July 26th/30th	*H. euphorbiae* (1); *M. vitellina* (1); *S. circumflexa* (1); *A. gamma* (200); *N. noctuella; N. antiopa* (1)
August 27th/Sept. 1st	*N. antiopa* (1), *A. convolvuli, E. occulta, A. gamma*
Sept. 5th/9th	*O. nubilalis* (5), *R. sacraria* (19); *A. convolvuli* (6); *A. atropos* (1); *M. albipuncta* (7); *M. vitellina* (1); *V. atalanta; C. cardui; O. croceus; A. ipsilon.*
Sept. 30th/Oct. 13th	*O. nubilalis* (5); *R. sacraria* (19); *O. obstipata* (16); *H. fasciaria* (1); *A. convolvuli* (6); *A. atropos* (1); *L. quadra* (1); *M. albipuncta* (3); *M. vitellina* (23); *M. unipuncta* (7); *H. armigera* (1); *S. littoralis* (1); *C. chalcites* (4); *V. atalanta; U. fer-*

	rugalis; P. saucia; A. gamma; N. noctuella; A. ipsilon.
Oct. 17th/19th	*O. obstipata* (3); *R. sacraria* (3); *M. unipuncta* (3); *H. armigera* (2).
Oct. 30th/Nov. 3rd	*O. obstipata* (1); *M. vitellina* (2); *M. unipuncta* (4).

Among the usually common immigrant butterflies *P. brassicae* L. was dominant. The first wave of immigrants was seen by several observers to arrive on the coast of East Sussex from June 9th to 12th, in local southerly breezes. Thence they spread rapidly inland and northwards, causing local plagues of larvae in July. Specimens examined in Surrey appeared to be of the ordinary north European form. The abundance which recurred in August and later was no doubt partly due to local breeding from the June invasion or by ordinary residents; but probable immigrants were again noted in Sussex on August 10th, and at Wadebridge, North Cornwall, during the week August 3rd/10th clouds of *P. brassicae* were seen moving north over the Bristol Channel. On August 11th *Pieris* species, of which 80% were thought to be *P. brassicae*, were estimated to number some 30,000 in a small field in Gower on the opposite coast. *P. rapae* and *P. napi* were also present, but it is not clear whether these were also immigrants. At Spurn Head, S. E. Yorks, on August 10th, about 2,400 'whites' (both *brassicae* and *rapae*) flew south in a two hour period around mid-day, and on August 11th for several hours a heavy southerly passage of butterflies involving 'whites' at the rate of 1,500 per hour. It is noteworthy that the flight direction is the opposite to that of the Sussex and N. Devon/Glamorgan reports of nearly the same date.

Colias croceus Fourc. was again very scarce, with only a few scattered reports, including one in Monmouth district on 16th June, but occurrence was mostly of single specimens, along the south coast in August and September and in a curious penetration apparently from Hampshire through North Wiltshire to Warwickshire and South Shropshire (*Ent. Rec.* **91**: 283). There were no indications of local breeding.

Cynthia cardui L. was also scarce, despite a first record as far north as North Mull, Argyllshire. There seems to have been a small influx in mid August, when it was reported in South Hampshire, Surrey and West Gloucestershire, and another in early September on the coast in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The latest record was of two at Portland, Dorset, on 29th September (*Ent. Rec.* **91**: 283).

V. atalanta L., however, had a fairly good year, beginning with immigrants to South Devon in late April and to Sussex and Kent in late May, reaching North Mull, Argyllshire by July 5th, and becoming widespread from mid August onwards, with further Scottish records, in Perthshire, on September 9th and October 21st. But it does not seem to have been anywhere unusually numerous, and except early in the season associ-

ations with other immigrants are not clear. One specimen, presumably on migration, was caught in a light trap at Longeaton, Notts., on September 10th.

Of the common immigrant moths, *A. gamma* was first recorded in Westmorland on May 13th and in South East Yorkshire on May 18th, and became fairly numerous in the south at the end of the month and in June. Immigrations continued at frequent intervals from late July onwards, with large influxes at Peacehaven, East Sussex on July 27th and August 3rd/4th and 12th, and there and elsewhere near the south coast through September and October; in East Lincolnshire there were very clear cut invasions on August 28th to September 3rd and from September 29th to October 4th. A number were widely reported during the mild first week of December; but it is not clear whether these were immigrant or locally bred. But, despite the coastal abundance, inland penetration was weak; traps in both East and West Surrey had the lowest totals for many years.

A. ipsilon, first reported in Cornwall on April 15th and elsewhere from mid May onwards, also had a fairly good year, though without exceptional abundance. The dispersion of the records both in time and place suggested much local breeding, the results of which lasted into December. *N. noctuella* though beginning in early June and lasting until December 1st, was again much below its usual numbers. *Udea ferrugalis* Hübner was not seen until August 4, but was widespread and fairly common in October, with a last record on November 23rd. *Peridroma saucia* Hübner, first reported at Hayling Island, S. Hants., on June 2nd, was again scarce, though there was a small invasion in October and the last was recorded at Muston,, East Yorkshire on November 14th. *P. meticulosa* was common from early April onwards, and a sudden influx of 71 was reported at Godalming, Surrey, on October 1st; but local breeding certainly contributed much to its numbers. The diurnal *Macroglossa stellatarum* was again very scarce, only about a dozen being recorded between June 6th and September 2nd, of which six were in South Devon. It did, however, reach as far north as Beetham, Westmorland, on July 7th.

Full records of the scarcer immigrant species are set out in Annexe II. The most notable have already been mentioned. Almost all the others were fewer than in 1978, and little comment is necessary.

Rhodometra sacraria L., of which about 50 were reported, was probably rather above its annual average. They occurred in two well defined periods, August 30th/September 16th, and October 6th/16th. They were most numerous in Sussex, and the only records far inland were at Leigh, South Surrey and at Totteridge, South Herts. The interval between occurrences was hardly long enough to permit local breeding.

Orthonama obstipata F., which tends to escape notice, with 39 recorded, may also have been above average: but the

pattern was very different. There was a single record, far inland, at Caversham, South Oxon, on June 3rd, and other singles at Bradwell-on-Sea, South Essex on July 7th, with three at Arundel, West Sussex and Peacehaven, East Sussex from July 30th/August 4th, and elsewhere in early September; there seem to have been larger invasions at the end of that month and through October, specimens penetrating north to Warwickshire and Yorkshire. But local breeding may have contributed to the later records, ,of which the last was at Portland on November 1st.

A. convolvuli, with about 20 recorded, was again scarce. An interesting point is that a sizeable invasion seems to have reached South Lincolnshire in late August/early September, possibly along with North European immigrant species.

M. vitellina and *M. unipuncta* Haw., with about 26 and 31 reported, were both relatively scarce. The latter occurred, as in 1978, mainly in late October and in November; and, despite the abundance of 1978, there were no traces of it early in the season which might have indicated winter survival. We still have no clear account of the finding of larvae of these species, and the possibility of their establishment, temporary or permanent, remains hypothetical.

Heliothis peltigera D. & S. is shown to have been present by the finding of a few larvae in South Devon and West Sussex; but no imagines were reported.

Records of suspected immigrants have been placed in Annexe II: —

Ostrinia nubilalis Hübner was for long regarded as a scarce immigrant, but in the past fifty years it has become established over much of South East England, it is, however, essentially univoltine here, in June and July, and the dates and circumstances of the nine specimens recorded in September and October clearly show them to be immigrant.

Hylaea fasciaria L. A single specimen, of an unusual yellowish fawn colour, was trapped by A. J. Dewick at Bradwell-on-Sea, South Essex, on October 1st, along with examples of *M. unipuncta, N. noctuella* and *U. ferrugalis.* The species is widely distributed in Britain among *Pinus sylvestris*; but, according to South (1961), it is usually univoltine in June and July and occurs only sometimes in September. Lempke (1953-70) notes in the Netherlands a partial second generation in October and November. The combination of place, date and associations strongly suggest that this specimen was immigrant.

Lithosia quadra L. The specimen caught at Beaumont-cum-Moze on October 10th was clearly immigrant, and may be the first record for North Essex. The records from W. Cornwall, however, spread over the period July 24th/August 25th, probably represent resident colonies in that county.

Meganola albula D. & S. A further example was trapped at Bradwell-on-Sea on August 3rd. Single examples of *N. noctuella* were the only certainly immigrant species present

on the previous and succeeding nights, and the possibility that the *M. albula* came from an unknown local colony appears to remain open.

Mythimna l-album L. A single specimen was trapped at Peacehaven, East Sussex, on August 4th. The species has been spreading steadily eastwards along the south coast; but its second generation in England is not usually on the wing before mid September. One *O. obstipata,* many *N. noctuella,* and over 40 *A. gamma* were recorded on the same night, and it is probable that the *M. l-album* formed part of this immigration.

Rhyacia simulans Hufn. Records have been received from Wilmington, W. Kent, 6.7; Bradwell-on-Sea, 28.6/4.9 (6), Little Baddow, 28.7, S. Essex; Little Hallingbury, summer 1979, N. Essex; St. Neot's, Hunts, 27.8 (*Ent. Rec.* **91**: 260). These have not been included above, as their timing and distribution appear strongly to indicate internal spread of the species rather than immigration.

It is hoped to continue the collection and publication of immigration records during 1980, and all help from the present and new recorders will be very welcome. We are still in much need of more information from Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, and from Wales and Ireland, especially from recorders who make diurnal observations or operate light traps regularly through much of the season.

ANNEXE I

Allen, R. — per Brown, D.C., Marton and Binton, Warwicks.; Bideford, N. Devon.
Appleton, D. — per Else, G. R., Wickham, S. Hants.
Archer-Lock., A. S., S. Devon.
Baker, B. R., Caversham, Oxon.
Barton, H. K., Knowle, Bristol N. Somerset.
Bell, R., Sparsholt, N. Hants.
Bramley, W.G. — per Winter, P., Pickering, Yorks. v.c.62.
Bretherton, R. F., Bramley, Surrey; S. Devon.
Briggs, S., Beetham, Westmorland.
Braddock, A. — per C. Pratt, Nottingham.
Brotheridge, D. G., N. Wilts.
Brown, D. C., Coverack, N. Cornwall; Studland, Dorset; Charlecote, Warwicks.
Butcher, A. G., Wilmington, W. Kent.
Churcher, J. — per Else, G. R., Yaverland, I.o.Wight.
Clarke, Julian — per Skinner, B., Dungeness, E. Kent.
Coxey, S., Abergele, Denbighshire
Largen, R. E., Findon, W. Sussex.
Lees, D. — per Skinner, B., Swanage, Dorset; Pagham, W. Sussex.
Lorimer, I., Totteridge, Herts.
Lowe, R. T., Burton Bradstock, Dorset.
Messenger, D. L., Wormley, Surrey.
Miller, J. R., Perthshire.
O'Heffernan, H. L., Slapton, S. Devon.
Owen, J., Dymchurch, E. Kent.
Parsons, M. — per Pratt, C., Eastbourne and Ninfield, E. Sussex.
Philp, E. G., Burham, E. Kent.
Plant, C., — per de Worms, Plaistow, E. Essex.
Pilcher, R. E. M., South Thoresby, E. Lincs.
Pittis, Rev. S., Branksome, Dorset.
Pickering, R., Aldwych Bay, W. Sussex; Salisbury, S. Wilts.
Platts, J., Portland, Dorset.
Pooles, S. W. — per Pratt, C., Eastbourne, E. Sussex.
Potter, T. A. — per Jackson, S. M., East Ayton, Yorks. v.c.62.

Dewick, A. J., Bradwell-on-Sea, S. Essex.
Dyke, R., Malborough, S. Devon.
Elias, D. O., Gower, Glamorgan.
Else, G. R., Sandown, I.o.Wight.
Elvidge, M., Godalming, Surrey.
Enfield, M. A., Boughton Aluph, Wye, etc., E. Kent.
Fairclough, R., Leigh, Surrey.
Fisher, J. B., Beaumont-cum-Moze, N. Essex.
Foster, A. P., Mawnan Smith, W. Cornwall; Kingsdown, E. Kent.
Gardner, A., Studland and Swanage, Dorset; Charlecote, Warwicks.
Greenwood, J. A. C., Rogate, W. Sussex.
Gandy, M., Cardigan; Islington, Kemble, etc.
Goater, B., W. Cornwall.
Hadley, M., Eastbourne, E. Sussex.
Halstead, A. J., Wisley, Surrey.
Haynes, R. F., Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Heath, J., Shropshire.
Horton, G. A. N., Usk, Monmouth.
Howard, G., Glen Garry, W. Inverness.
Harman, T. G. Westbere, Canterbury, E. Kent.
Jackson, S. M., Penzance, W. Cornwall; Pagham, W. Sussex; Selby, Yorks. v.c.61.
Jagger, J. — per Jackson, S. M., Mullion, W. Cornwall.
Pratt, C., Peacehaven, E. Sussex.
Pyman, G. A., Little Baddow, S. Essex; Studland, Dorset.
Radford, J. T., Arundel, W. Sussex — per Pratt, C.
Reid, J., Crewkerne, S. Somerset.
Sadler, E., West Tisted, N. Hants.
Skinner, B., N. Mull, Argyll; Swanage and Portland, Dorset; Eastbourne, E. Sussex.
Smith, P. — per Pyman, G. A., Dovercourt, N. Essex.
Smith, J. J. — per Pyman, G. A., Doddinghurst, S. Essex.
Smith, Mr. and Mrs. F., Peterborough, Northants.
Spence, B. R., Spurn Head, Yorks.
Sterling, Col. D. H., Winchester, S. Hants.
Stephenson, R., St. Mary Church, Glamorgan.
Strange, Miss T., St. Briavels, W. Glos.
Torlesse, Read Admiral A. D., Sway, S. Hants.
Wanstall, P. J. — per Pyman, G. A., Brentwood, S. Essex.
Watkinson, I., Boughton-u-Blean, E. Kent.
Walters, J., Hayling Is., S. Hants.
Webber, G. L., N. Wiltshire.
West, B. K., Sandwich, E. Kent.
Wild, E. P., Selsdon, Surrey.
Wildbore, Mrs. D., Shoreham, W. Kent.
Winter, P., Muston and Filey, Yorks. v.c.61.

ANNEXE II
Records of Scarcer Immigrant Species in 1979

OSTRINIA NUBILALIS Hübner (9). E. SUSSEX. Peacehaven, 5 & 9.9. E. KENT, Boughton-u-Blean, 5.10, 9.10 10.10; Boughton Aluph, 9.10, two females. S. ESSEX. Bradwell-on-Sea, 4.10, two females.

PALPITA UNIONALIS Hübner (5). DORSET. Studland, 13.10, two (D. C. Brown). E. KENT, Westbere, 25.10. W. SUSSEX, Aldwick Bay, 13.10. S. ESSEX. Bradwell-on-Sea, 12.10

LAMPIDES BOETICUS L. SURREY. Sutton, 15.9, one in house (possibly accidental introduction).

NYMPHALIS ANTIOPA L. W. KENT, Shoreham, 26.7, one in garden at 2 p.m. NORTHANTS. Peterborough, 29.8, one in garden in warm easterly air.

DANAUS PLEXIPPUS L. ISLE OF WIGHT. 6.7, Yaverland, one photographed on *Escallonia* in garden.

RHODOMETRA SACRARIA L. (*c.*50). W. CORNWALL. Coverack, 30.8; Godolphin, 5.9, five in stubble; Mullion, c.7.9. N. DEVON.Bideford, 5.9. DORSET. Studland, 6.10, 13.10, two 16.10, two (Brown); Swanage, 10/11.10, male (Skinner); Wareham, 13.10. S. HANTS. Hayling Is., 6.9, 11.10. N. HANTS. Sparsholt, 8.10, female, ova. W. SUSSEX. Aldwick Bay, 31.8; Rogate, 3.9, 6.9 (males), 3.10, 6.10, 8.10, two, 15.10 (in all, males 5, females 3). E. SUSSEX. Eastbourne Cliffs, 1.9 (Parsons), 10.9 (Hadley); Peacehaven, 3.9.; Ninfield, 11.10, 12.10, two E. KENT. Dymchurch, c.1/3.9; Canterbury, 16.10. W. KENT. Bexley, 11.9. SURREY, Leigh, 1.9. HERTS. Totteridge, 9.10. S. ESSEX. Doddinghurst, 1.9.; Bradwell-on-Sea, 13.9. E. LINCS,

South Thoresby, 13.10. YORKS v.c.61. Filey, 1.10, infertile female. CARDS. Cardigan, 9.9.

ORTHONAMA OBSTIPATA F. (38). W. CORNWALL. Mullion, *c.*7-9. DORSET, Swanage, 10.10, female (Skinner); Studland, 13.10 (Brown); 25.10, two; Portland, 1.11 (Skinner). S. SOMERSET. Crewkerne, 28.10, male. S. HANTS. Hayling Is., 8.10, two, 26.10. N. HANTS. Sparsholt, 11.10, male. W. SUSSEX. Arundel, 30.7, male, 1.8 female, Aldwick Bay, 25.9, 30.9, 11.10, male, Pagham, 26.9., E. SUSSEX. Peacehaven, 4.8, 7.10, 8.10, 10.10, 19.10, 20.10, 26.10, 27.10 (eight in all); Ninfield, 12.10, two; Eastbourne, 18.10, male (Skinner). E. KENT. Monkton Chalk Pit, Thanet, 29.9, female; SURREY, Wormley, 25.9. S. ESSEX. Bradwell-on-Sea, 11.7, 2.9, female, 13.10, female; 29.10, female. OXON. Caversham, 3.6. WARWICKS. Charlecote, 8.10. YORKS v.c.61. Muston, 14.10, 25.10. DENBIGHSHIRE. In May, one.

HYLAEA FASCIARIA L. S. ESSEX. Bradwell-on-Sea, 1.10 (possibly immigrant).

AGRIUS CONVOLVULI L. (*c.*24). W. CORNWALL, c.28.8, two (Goater). DORSET. Studland, 6.10 (Gardner). E. SUSSEX. Peacehaven, 19.9, 16.10; Ninfield, 26.9; Eastbourne, 3.10 (Pooles). E. KENT. Dymchurch, c.1.9; Sittingbourne, 8.10, one said to have discharged meconium, probably newly emerged; Westbere, 14.10. S. ESSEX, Bradwell-on-Sea, 22.8, male, 10.10. E. LINCS. S. Thoresby and nearby, 31.8, 1.9., four, possibly six, 13.10. WARWICKS. Marton, 11.9. YORKS v.c.62. Pickering, 12 or 13.9, in a light cover; East Ayton, 2.10, on a door step. WESTMORLAND. Beetham, 21.8.

ACHERONTIA ATROPOS L. S. WILTS. Salisbury, 13.7, one found. E. KENT, Burham, 7.10. S. ESSEX. Plaistow, 7.9, one found dead in a garden.

HYLES EUPHORBIAE L. S. ESSEX. Brentwood, 29.7, a very small, dark example, said to have been released after identification.

NOTODONTA TORVA Hübner. Eastbourne, 29/30.5, female found on wall beside trap in the morning.

LITHOSIA QUADRA L. N. ESSEX. Beaumont-cum-Moze, 10.10, male. W. CORNWALL, Mawnan Smith, 24.7/25.8, twelve in all: probably from resident colonies.

EUROIS OCCULTA L. E. LINCS. South Thoresby, 27.8, 28.8, 29.8 (three in all).

MYTHIMNA ALBIPUNCTA (c.18). W. CORNWALL. Mullion, c.7.9. DORSET. Portland, 2.9 (Chainey); Studland, 6.10 (Gardner). S. HANTS. Hayling Is., 8.9., two, 9.9. W. SUSSEX. Findon, 16.9; Rogate, 9.10, male; Aldwick Bay, 14.10. E. SUSSEX, Eastbourne, 9.9 (Pooles); Peacehaven, 9.9. E. KENT. Dungeness, 15.9, female.

MEGANOLA ALBULA D. &S. S. ESSEX. Bradwell-on-Sea, 3.8 (possibly immigrant).

MYTHIMNA VITELLINA Hübner (26). W. CORNWALL. Coverack, 4.8; Mawnan Cliffs, 13.10, female, 16.10, male. DORSET. Studland, 6.10 (Brown/Gardner), 25.10, two (Brown), Swanage, 10.10, two males (Skinner); 13.10, male (Lees); Burton Bradstock, 31.10, male, female. S. HANTS. Hayling Is., 9.10; 10.10, two; Winchester, 9.10, male. W. SUSSEX Findon, 27.7; Pagham, 23.9, on wall; E. SUSSEX. Peacehaven, 27.9, 11.10; Eastbourne, 30.9 (Pooles); Ninfield, 30.9, 6.10, 10.10. E. KENT. Boughton-u-Blean, 10.10. SURREY. Bramley, 23.10, male. S. ESSEX. Bradwell, 10.10 15.10.

MYTHIMNA UNIPUNCTA Haw. (31). W. CORNWALL. Coverack, 31.8; Mawgan Cliffs, 13.10, female, 16.10, male. S. DEVON. Malborough, 24.10. DORSET. Studland, 6.10 (Brown/Gardner), 13.10 (Brown); Swanage, 24.10, female, 31.10, male (Skinner), 13.10, female (Lees); Branksome, 17.10, 19.10. W. SUSSEX. Findon, 17.10; Plaistow, 26.10. E. SUSSEX. Peacehaven, 30.9, 25/27.10, three; Eastbourne, 3.11 (Hadley); Ninfield, 22.11. E. KENT. Kingdown, 26.10, male, female; Westbere, 30.10. S. ESSEX. Bradwell-on-Sea, 16.10, 25.10, 29.10, 31.10, 1.11, 7.11. N. ESSEX. Beaumont-cum-Moze, 20.10. co. KERRY. Killarney, 13.10, 11, one early, one late.

MYTHIMNA L-ALBUM. L. E. SUSSEX. Peacehaven, 4.8.

SPODOPTERA EXIGUA. Hübner. W. CORNWALL, Mawnan Smith, 29.11.

SPODOPTERA LITTORALIS, Bdv. DORSET. Studland, 13.10.

HELICOVERPA ARMIGERA. Hübner (3). DORSET. Swanage, 13.10, female, ova infertile; Wareham, 17.10. N. HANTS. Sparsholt, 17.8, male.

HELIOTHIS PELTIGERA D. & S. S. DEVON. Lympstone, 28.9, few larvae on marigold. W. SUSSEX. Pagham, 12.10, three larvae on *S. viscosus.*

CHRYSODEIXIS CHALCITES Esp. (4). N. SOMERSET, Knowle, Bristol, 10/11.10, female, ova. GLAMORGAN. 8.10, St. Mary Church, female, ova, moths reared. S. ESSEX. Bradwell-on-Sea, 6/7.10, ova infertile. N. ESSEX. Dovercourt, 2.10.

SYNGRAPHA CIRCUMFLEXA L. S. HANTS. Sway, 29.7.

DIGITIVALVA PERLEPIDELLA (STAINTON). — As well as recording a further Kent North Downs locality for this species at Detling Hill, Nr. Maidstone on 3rd June 1979, a freshly emerged specimen was also captured at the identical locality on 28th August 1979, indicating an occasional second brood. — N. F. HEAL, Fosters, Detling Hill, Nr. Maidstone, Kent.

UNUSUAL FOOD OF ENNOMOS FUSCANTARIA HAWORTH. — A full grown larva of this species was found on an isolated Horse Chestnut tree in my garden at Lissington, Lincolnshire. — G. M. HAGGETT.

POLYGONIA EGEA CRAMER IN MALTA. — After 32 years, I once more came across this beautiful and rare butterfly in Malta, in a different locality from where it was seen and recorded for the first time in 1948 (see *Entomologist,* **81:** 150), since when it had not been seen again on the island.

On the 5th February 1980, I went to Wied Il-Ghasel, Mosta, to take some pictures of the present pitiful state of this valley after the heavy rainfall of the 25th October 1979, when over seven inches of water in less than an hour flooded all the low-lying areas of the island. What a catastrophe! What a transformation! This locality, one of the best habitats of most of the species of lepidoptera and of the other orders of insects has been turned into a mass of boulders of every size and shape. It has been totally denuded of soil and consequently of all the existing vegetation except for the ubiquitous Cape Sorrel-*Oxalis pes-caprae* L. which managed to survive on the higher slopes of the valley.

It was after 10 a.m., when amidst this desolation I saw this unusual butterfly sipping the white flowers of an almond tree, which although shaken by the force of the rushing water and bent at an angle of some 60 degrees, still showed a good sign of survival. I was hardly two metres way from the butterfly and thus could see it perfectly well and recognise the species, having already seen it before on the wing at Wied Is-Sewda, Attard in 1948, as well as in Sicily in the spring of 1970, and in the summer of 1975. — A. VALLETTA, F.R.E.S., 257 Msida Street, B'Kara, Malta.